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FRENCH




Grammar Booklet



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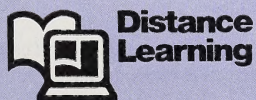
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French

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This document is intended for	
Students	✓
Teachers (French)	✓
Administrators	
Parents	
General Public	
Other	

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This booklet contains the main French grammar rules that are needed from grade nine to grade twelve. It is for reference only. Use it as a lesson help when doing some of your assignments.

The Alphabet

- Both French and English alphabets use the same twenty-six letters. However, in French the letter *k* occurs only in bookish or foreign words and *w* occurs only in foreign words that have been adopted as part of the French language. *W* is often pronounced like *v*.
- There are two kinds of letters:
 - vowels
 - consonants
- Vowels are letters that may be sounded without the help of another letter. These are *a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, *u*, and *y*.
- The letter *e* has three different sounds:
 - silent *e* – not sounded, or practically not sounded
 - closed *e* – written *é* and pronounced with the mouth practically closed. It is a similar sound to the English *ay* as in “say,” but it is sharper and shorter.
 - open *e* – written *e*, *è*, or *ê*. This *e* is produced with the mouth opened much wider and sounds somewhat like the *e* in the English word *let*. Some people pronounce *è* as in the *e* in *egg*.
- Nasal vowels: These four sounds do not exist in English, but they are easy to pronounce. “Nasal” means that the vowel is partly pronounced in the nasal cavity.

nasal a	(<i>an/en</i>)	resembles an English <i>õ</i> nasalized
nasal i	(<i>in</i>)	resembles an English <i>ã</i> nasalized
nasal o	(<i>on</i>)	resembles an English <i>õ</i> nasalized
nasal u	(<i>un</i>)	resembles an English <i>ũ</i> nasalized

The nasal **i** sound is usually spelled *en* after *i*, *y*, or *é* (for example, *bien*, *moyen*, *Phocéén*). Letter *m* is used instead of *n* before a *b* or *p* (*temps* sounds like *tant*). Nasalization does not occur if the *n* or *m* is doubled or followed by a vowel (*tien* vs. *tienne*). The *n* or *m* is never pronounced after the nasal vowel. The nasal vowels are found in the following combinations, among others:

am	ain	en	im	on	ym
an	aon	ein	in	um	yn
aim	em	eun	om	un	

6. A diphthong is the union of two or more vowels in the same syllable, where each vowel is pronounced continuously so that it flows into the next syllable. A good example is *oeil*. The two vowel sounds *oe* and *i* blend together to make a sound unlike any of their individual sounds. The *oei* in the same syllable is a diphthong and counts for one sound.
7. Consonants are letters that may be sounded only with the help of a vowel.
8. An *h* is always silent. Nevertheless, there are two types of *hs*:
 - aspirate
 - inaspirate (mute)

Most *hs* are inaspirate (that is, they are treated as vowels and require elision or liaison).

Examples: *l'homme, trois heures* (See 16, 22, and 23.)

The aspirate *h* is treated as a consonant. It requires a full stop and complete separation from the article before it. There is no elision or liaison.

Example: *le héros*

As there is no rule indicating which words belong to which group, each word must be learned separately. In most French dictionaries, words beginning with an aspirate *h* are marked with an asterisk or apostrophe.

9. Most consonants are silent when they are the final letter of a word. There are four exceptions to this rule. C-R-F-L (the consonants of the English word *careful*) are nearly always sounded at the end of a word.
10. The French *r* is the most difficult to pronounce correctly. There are two correct pronunciations of this letter:
 - that made by vibrating the tip of the tongue against the upper teeth
 - that made by vibrating the uvula against the tongue. The uvula, the small flap hanging from the roof of the mouth, is vibrated when one gargles. An effective way to practise this sound is to concentrate on the vibration of the uvula until its muscles can be made to obey at will.
11. There are sounds made up of more than one consonant, but they are treated as one because the sound is unique.

Examples: *chez, oignon, téléphone*

12. In French, every syllable must contain a vowel. A syllable usually begins with a consonant, but may begin with a vowel.

Example: é-lé-phant

A single consonant between two vowels goes with the second vowel.

Example: ma-dame

Two consonants between two vowels are divided.

Example: man-ger

There are two exceptions to this rule.

1. If two consonants together form one sound, they are not divided.

Example: té-lé-phone

2. If one of two consonants is *r* or *l*, they are not divided.

Example: an-glais

French-English Equivalent Sounds

13. Many French sounds have identical or very similar sounds in English, but there are some sounds that you will have to learn because there is no such sound in English.

Here is a chart of English equivalents for French sounds.

- Vowels
 - a* as in **an**
 - à* as in **cat**
 - â* as in **father**
 -
 - e* as in **the man**
 - é* as in **day**
 - è* as in **let**
 - ê* as in **let** or **egg**
 -
 - i* as in **feet**
 -
 - o* as in **oh** or **up**
 - ô* as in **pose**
 - oi* as in **water**
 - ou* as in **boot**

ou before a vowel as in **won**

Example: *oui* (**wee**)

Ouellet (**wellet**)

u – no English equivalent

eu – no English equivalent

y as in **feet**

nasal vowels – no English equivalents

• Consonants

b as in **bed**

c as in **car** or **scarce**

ç as in **miss**

ch as in **show**

d as in **dirty**

f as in **far**

g as in **go**

g as the *s* in **pleasure**

gn as in **onion** or **canyon**

h – always silent

j as the *s* in **pleasure**

k as in **kill**

l as in **let**

ll as in **lullaby**

Examples: *intelligent*, *ville*

il or *ill* as in **yield**

Examples: *fille*, *gentille*

m as in **met**

n as in **no**

p as in **put**

ph as in **phone**

qu as in **keep** and occasionally as in **adequate**

r – no English equivalent

s as in **sell** or **poison**

t as in **to**

ti as in **see**

v as in **very**

w as in **wig** or **very**

x as in **example**

z as in **zero**

Orthographic Signs

14. There are certain spelling signs in French that indicate a change in pronunciation. These are the accents, the apostrophe, the diaeresis, the cedilla, and the hyphen.

15. There are three kinds of accents:

- acute (´) to indicate closed *e* sounds, as in *bébé*
- grave (`) on certain open *e* sounds, and sometimes on *a* and *u* to distinguish between words

Example: *père*

la (the)

là (there)

ou (or)

où (where)

- circumflex (^) usually indicating a prolonged vowel sound as in *fête, hâte, île, trône, flûte*

16. The apostrophe is used to indicate that a letter has been omitted. This happens when a word ending with a vowel is followed by a word beginning with a vowel or mute *h*. In order to facilitate pronunciation, the final vowel is dropped and replaced with an apostrophe. This is called elision.

Example: *l'ami* instead of *le ami*, which is hard to say

17. The diaeresis (¨), called *tréma* in French, is used over the **second** of two consecutive vowels to show that each vowel is pronounced separately. This causes the sounding of two syllables.

Examples: *naïf, Moïse, Noël*

18. The cedilla (ç) is used under the letter *c* before *a*, *o*, and *u* to indicate that *c* should be sounded like *ss*.

Examples: *Français, garçon, reçu*

19. The hyphen is used as in English, to connect certain related words or expressions.

Examples: *arc-en-ciel*, *connais-tu*

Capital Letters

20. The names of months and days of the week are capitalized in English. In French, these are capitalized only if they happen to be the first word in a sentence.

Examples: *Je travaille le lundi.*
Lundi, je dois travailler.

21. The names of languages are capitalized in English. In French, nouns of nationality are capitalized, but adjectives of nationality and names of languages are not routinely capitalized.

Examples: *Un Français parle français.* A **F**renchman speaks **F**rench.
C'est un disque français. This is a **F**rench record.

Elision and Liaison

22. Elision occurs when a vowel is replaced with an apostrophe to facilitate pronunciation.

Example: *l'ami* rather than *le ami*, which is hard to say

A vowel is elided in the following cases:

- *a* in the word *la* before a vowel or mute *h*

Examples: *l'ainée*, *l'héroïne*

- *e* in the words *ce*, *de*, *je*, *le*, *me*, *ne*, *que*, *se*, and *te* before a vowel or mute *h*

Examples: *j'espère*, *l'habitant*

- *i* in the word *si* before *il* or *ils* only

Examples: *s'il*, *s'ils*

- *o*, *u*, *y* are never elided. Nor is there elision before *onze*, *onzième*, *huit*, or *huitième*.

23. Liaison is the linking of words to facilitate pronunciation. Link final consonants to initial vowels in the following cases:

- pronoun subjects and verbs

Examples: *vous êtes*, *sont-elles*

- article and noun

Example: *les artistes*

- adjective and noun

Example: *quels artistes*

- number and noun

Example: *trois enfants*

- preposition and object

Example: *devant elle*

- adverb and adjective

Example: *très important*

Words beginning with a mute *h* follow the regular rule of liaison.

Examples: *ces hommes, cet histoire*

S and *x* are sounded like *z* in liaison.

Examples: *les amis, beaux arbres*

D is pronounced like *t*.

Example: *grand élève*

F sounds like *v*.

Examples: *neuf ans, neuf heures*

The *n* of nasal sounds is sounded.

Example: *mon amie*

One should never pronounce with liaison in these cases:

- the *m* of a nasal sound
- the word *et*

- a noun subject and its verb

Example: *Charles/était*, and **not** *Charles/était*

- Word groups where the second word is

— *onze* or *onzième* (*les/onze*, and **not** *les/onze*)

— *huit* or *huitième* (*les/huit*, and **not** *les/huit*)

— *oui* (*mais/oui*, and **not** *mais/oui*)

- Word groups where the second word begins with an aspirate *h*

Examples: *les/haricots*, *les/Hollandais*

Gender

24. In French, there are only two genders: masculine and feminine. All variable parts of speech (except the verb and the participle) fit into one or the other of these categories. Words like *child* or *teacher* are classified as masculine or feminine according to the context and, if it is not clear from the context, then they are classified as masculine.

Number

25. Number indicates whether one is speaking of one thing or of several things. If one is speaking of only one thing, then the number is singular; if more than one thing is designated, then the number is plural. This applies to all the variable parts of speech, including verbs and participles.

The Parts of Speech

26. There are ten parts of speech:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| • the noun | • the participle |
| • the article | • the adverb |
| • the adjective | • the preposition |
| • the pronoun | • the conjunction |
| • the verb | • the interjection |

27. Some of these are variable; this means that their spelling may change.

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| • the noun | • the pronoun |
| • the article | • the verb |
| • the adjective | • the participle |

28. The adverb, preposition, conjunction, and interjection are invariable. Their spelling **never changes** regardless of their position or function in a sentence.

Nouns

29. A noun is a name-word designating a person, place, thing, or animal.

Examples: John, Regina, table, horse

Proper and Common

30. There are two kinds of nouns:

- proper
- common

31. Proper nouns refer to a specific person, place, animal, or thing.

Examples: Mr. Brown, New York, Black Beauty, Tower of London

32. Common nouns speak of persons, places, animals, and things in general.

Examples: students, cities, dogs, furniture

Classes of Nouns

33. There are also three other classes of nouns, which may be either proper or common.

- collective nouns – designating a “collection” of beings or things belonging to the same group

Examples: “Army,” “herd,” and “crowd” are common collective nouns.
“Canadian Armed Forces,” “National Hockey League,” and the
“Crown Jewels” are proper collective nouns.

- compound nouns – made up of several words and sometimes linked with a hyphen

Examples: “Mother-in-law” is a common compound noun. “Stratford-on-Avon”
is a proper compound noun.

- abstract nouns – usually designate things which you can experience only with your intelligence and your feelings

Examples: “Truth,” “beauty,” “evil,” “greatness,” and so on, are abstract nouns.
These are usually common nouns.

Masculine and Feminine

34. All nouns in French belong either to the masculine or to the feminine gender and to the singular or plural number. (Refer to 24 and 25.) Often there is no logical reason for the genders of things. Learn the gender when you learn a new noun.

35. Many nouns in French are naturally feminine. Some, though, are based on masculine nouns. Here are ways of deriving the feminine form of nouns from masculine nouns:

- By adding an *e* to the masculine noun you make it feminine.

Examples: *ami* (male friend) *amie* (female friend)
cousin (male cousin) *cousine* (female cousin)

- Nouns ending in *er* become *ère* in the feminine form.

Example: *fermier* (male farmer) *fermière* (female farmer)

- Nouns ending in *en* or *on* double the *n* and add *e* to form the feminine.

Examples: *Canadien* (male Canadian) *Canadienne* (female Canadian)
lion (male lion) *lionne* (female lion)

- Some nouns ending with a mute *e* form their feminine by adding *sse*.

Examples: *prince* *princesse*
comte *comtesse*
tigre *tigresse*

- Nouns ending in *eur* change to *euse* for the feminine form.

Examples: *acheteur* (male buyer) *acheteuse* (female buyer)
vendeur (salesman) *vendeuse* (saleswoman)

- Nouns ending in *teur* change to *trice* in the feminine.

Examples: *acteur* (actor) *actrice* (actress)
instituteur (male instructor) *institutrice* (female instructor)

- Many nouns have a special form for the feminine.

Examples: *héros* *héroïne*
serviteur *servante*
roi (king) *reine* (queen)

- Some nouns have entirely different words to indicate the feminine.

Examples: *coq* (rooster) *poule* (hen)
oncle (uncle) *tante* (aunt)

- A certain number of words use the same word for both the masculine and feminine genders.

Examples: *enfant* (child)
peintre (painter)
médecin (doctor)
pianiste
professeur
propriétaire (proprietor)

Plural Forms

36. Here are the ways of forming the plural form of nouns:

- The usual way to change a singular noun to its plural form is to add an *s*.

Examples: *ami* (friend) *amis* (friends)
cousine (female cousin) *cousines* (female cousins)

- Nouns ending in *s*, *x*, or *z* do not change in the plural form.

Examples: *pois*, *voix*, *nez*

- Nouns ending in *au* or *eu* usually take an *x* in their plural form.

Examples: *château* (castle) *châteaux* (castles)
feu (fire) *feux* (fires)

- Nouns ending in *ou* take *s*, except *bijou*, *caillou*, *chou*, *genou*, *hibou*, *joujou*, and *pou*. These words take an *x* in their plural form.

Examples: *clou* (nail) *clous* (nails)
hibou (owl) *hiboux* (owls)

- Nouns ending in *al* change to *aux*, except *bal*, *cal*, *carnaval*, *chacal*, *festival*, *pal*, and *régal*. These words take an *s* in their plural form.

Examples: *cheval* (horse) *chevaux* (horses)
festival *festivals*

- Nouns ending in *ail* take *s* in their plural form except *bail*, *corail*, *émail*, *soupirail*, *travail*, *vantail*, and *vitrail*. These words change to an *aux* ending.

Examples: *portail* *portails*
travail *travaux*

Functions

37. Here are the functions of nouns:

- Nouns may be subjects.

Examples: ***Jean** est mon ami.*
*Le **cheval** travaille fort.*
*Mon **jardin** grandit.*

- Nouns may be objects or complements.

Examples: *Je mange une **pomme**.* (object of verb *mange*)
*Le livre **de Suzanne** est intéressant.* (object of noun *livre*)
*Michelle est devenue **chef** de l'équipe.* (attribut in French; subjective complement or predicate nominative in English)

- Nouns may be in apposition and modify another noun.

Example: *Gisèle, **ma soeur**, est malade.* (noun in apposition referring to Gisèle)

- Nouns may be used to address someone.

Example: ***Charles**, viens ici.* (nominative of address)

Articles

38. Articles are words used with nouns to indicate the gender and/or number of the nouns. An article is a special type of adjective.

39. Articles agree in gender and in number with the nouns they accompany (or refer to, if the noun is understood).

Examples: <i>la porte</i>	feminine, singular
<i>les soeurs</i>	feminine, plural
<i>le cousin</i>	masculine, singular
<i>les amis</i>	masculine, plural

40. There are three kinds of articles:

- definite
- indefinite
- partitive

Definite

41. The definite articles determine a specific object and may be translated as “the.” The French forms of the definite article are

- *le* for masculine singular nouns
- *la* for feminine singular nouns
- *les* for masculine plural or feminine plural nouns

42. The definite articles *le* and *la* before a word beginning with a vowel or mute *h* are elided. The vowel on the article is dropped and replaced by an apostrophe for easier pronunciation.

Examples: *l'enfant, l'histoire*

43. If the definite article *le* or *les* comes after *à* or *de*, it is contracted. This means that it is shortened to one word. In English, verb contractions such as “don’t” for “do not”, “can’t” for “cannot,” and “isn’t” for “is not” are used. French does not contract verbs, only articles, but the process is the same.

Here is the list of contracted articles:

- singular – Use *au* instead of *à le*.
– Use *du* instead of *de le*.
- plural – Use *aux* instead of *à les*.
– Use *des* instead of *de les*.

The contractions **must** be used. It is a mistake to say *à le, de le, à les, or de les*.

Indefinite

44. The indefinite articles accompany nouns of a less specific nature. They are translated as “a,” “an,” or “some,” or “any.” The French indefinite articles are

- *un* for masculine singular nouns
- *une* for feminine singular nouns
- *des* for masculine plural or feminine plural nouns

Partitive

45. The partitive article is almost the same as the contracted definite article; however, it has a different meaning. A partitive designates a *part of* a whole. In English, you say “some” or “any.”

Here is a list of partitive articles:

- some or any – Use *du* for *de le*.
– Use *de la*.
– Use *de l'* for *de la* or *du* before a vowel.
– Use *des*.
- not any – Use *pas de* or *pas d'*.

Adjectives

46. Adjectives are words used to modify nouns (that is, to determine them more specifically or to describe them).

Examples: house
 my house
 my old house

47. There are two groups of adjectives:

- descriptive
- determining

Descriptive

48. The most common adjectives are those that describe or add a quality to the noun. In French, these are called *adjectifs qualificatifs*.
49. These adjectives have different spelling forms in their masculine/feminine and singular/plural forms. An adjective must always agree in gender and in number with the noun it modifies.

Examples: *un petit garçon* (masculine) *une petite fille* (feminine)

Gender

50. Here is how to form the feminine of descriptive adjectives from the masculine forms:

- Adjectives ending in *e* do not change.

Examples: *un garçon sympathique et jeune* *une fille sympathique et jeune*

- Adjectives ending in *er* change to *ère*.

Example: *un garçon étranger* *une fille étrangère*

- Adjectives ending in *eil*, *el*, *en*, *on*, *et* double the last consonant and add *e*.

Examples: *pareil* *pareille*
ancien *ancienne*
mortel *mortelle*
bon *bonne*
violet *violette*

There are eight exceptions to this rule: *complet*, *incomplet*, *concret*, *discret*, *indiscret*, *inquiet*, *replet*, and *secret* all change to *ète* instead of *tte*.

Examples: *complet* *complète*
inquiet *inquiète*

- The following adjectives also double the last consonant and add *e* to form the feminine:

<i>gentil</i> <i>gentille</i>	<i>gros</i> <i>grosse</i>
<i>nul</i> <i>nulle</i>	<i>belot</i> <i>belotte</i>
<i>bas</i> <i>basse</i>	<i>palot</i> <i>palotte</i>
<i>gras</i> <i>grasse</i>	<i>sot</i> <i>sotte</i>
<i>las</i> <i>lasse</i>	<i>vieillot</i> <i>vieillotte</i>
<i>épais</i> <i>épaisse</i>	

- The following adjectives have two masculine forms and one feminine form.

ordinary masculine	masculine before vowels and mute <i>h</i>	feminine form
beau	bel	belle
nouveau	nouvel	nouvelle
fou	fol	folle
mou	mol	molle
vieux	vieil	vieille

- Adjectives ending in *f* change to *ve*.

Examples: *neuf* *neuve*
bref *brève*

- Adjectives ending in *x* change to *se*.

Examples: *heureux* *heureuse*
furieux *furieuse*

- Adjectives ending in *eur* have many feminine forms:

Some just add *e*.

Example: *majeur* *majeure*

Some change to *euse*.

Example: *menteur* *menteuse*

Some change to *trice*.

Example: *réformateur* *réformatrice*

- The following adjectives end with *che* in the feminine:

blanc	blanche
franc	franche
frais	fraîche
sec	sèche

- *Caduc*, *public*, *turc*, and *grec* end with *que* in the feminine form.

Examples: *public* *publique*
grec *grecque*
turc *turque*
caduc *caduque*

51. Here is how to form the plural of adjectives:

- The usual way is to add *s*.

Examples: *petit* *petits*
grand *grands*

- Adjectives ending in *s* or *x* do not change.

Examples: *épais*
courageux

- *Beau, jumeau, nouveau, and hébreu* take *x* in the plural.

Examples: *beaux*
jumeaux
nouveaux
hébreux

- *Bleu, feu, fou, and mou* take *s*.

Examples: *bleus*
feus
fous
mous

- Adjectives ending in *al* change to *aux*.

Example: *loyal loyaux*

- Many adjectives ending in *al* just take *s*.

Examples: *fatal fatals*
final finals

Singular, Plural

52. If an adjective modifies several nouns, it must be written in the plural form.

Examples: *un chien et un chat bruns*
Jean et Paul sont intelligents.

If one of these nouns is feminine and the other is masculine, the adjective will be in the masculine plural form.

Example: *un garçon et une fille intelligents*

If all the nouns are feminine, the adjective will be feminine plural.

Example: *Jeannette et sa cousine sont intelligentes.*

Determining

53. The next group of adjectives are called determining because they do not describe the noun that they modify, but they do specify it; they serve to make it more precise, more clearly determined.

54. There are four kinds of determining adjectives:

- demonstrative adjectives
- possessive adjectives
- numerical adjectives
- indefinite adjectives

Demonstrative

55. In English, the demonstrative adjectives are *this*, *that*, *these*, and *those*. In French, there is only one adjective in meaning, but it has four different forms:

- *ce* for masculine singular

Example: *ce village* (this town, that town)

- *cet* for masculine singular nouns before a vowel or mute *h*

Examples: *cet enfant* (this child, that child)
cet homme (this man, that man)

- *cette* for all feminine singular nouns

Examples: *cette étrangère* (this stranger, that stranger)
cette fille (this girl, that girl)

- *ces* for all plural nouns, whether they are masculine or feminine

Examples: *ces villages* (these towns, those towns)
ces filles (these girls)

56. To add emphasis, the words *ci* and *là* are sometimes used with the demonstrative adjectives to indicate whether an object is near or far away.

Examples: *ce garçon-ci* (this boy here)
cette rue-là (that street there)

Possessive

57. Possessive adjectives, as their name indicates, serve to show possession.

Examples: *mon jardin* (my garden)
son oncle (his or her uncle)
ses amis (his or her friends)

58. The possessive adjectives are shown here:

	singular		plural
	masculine	feminine	both genders
my	mon	ma	mes
your	ton	ta	tes
his, her, its	son	sa	ses
our	notre	notre	nos
your	votre	votre	vos
their	leur	leur	leurs

59. Before a feminine noun beginning with a vowel or mute *h*, use *mon*, *ton*, and *son* instead of *ma*, *ta*, and *sa* to avoid the meeting of two vowels, which makes pronunciation difficult.

Numerical

60. Numerical adjectives are used to indicate the number or the order of the nouns about which one is speaking.

Example: *Il y a trois garçons sur la **troisième** rue.*
(There are three boys on the **third** street.)

61. There are two kinds of numerical adjectives:

- cardinal
- ordinal

62. Cardinal numerical adjectives indicate the number of objects.

Examples: ***deux** oncles*
***quatre** cousins*

63. Ordinal numerical adjectives indicate the order in which things are placed.

Examples: *Janine est la **première** à arriver.*
(Janine is the **first** to arrive.)

*C'est la **quatrième** question.*
(It is the **fourth** question.)

64. The spelling of cardinal numerical adjectives never varies except that

- *un* becomes *une* in the feminine
- *vingt* takes an *s* when it is part of the expression *quatre-vingts* and is not followed by another number
- *cent* takes an *s* when speaking of several hundreds and no other number follows

Examples: *quatre cents* **but** *quatre cent cinq*

- *mille*, meaning a thousand, never takes an *s*; but if it means *miles*, then it is treated like other nouns and may vary.

Examples: *dix mille personnes* (ten thousand people)
dix milles d'ici (ten miles from here)

Indefinite

65. Indefinite adjectives add a vague precision to the nouns they accompany.

66. Here are some indefinite adjectives:

	masculine	feminine
none, not any	aucun	aucune
certain	certain	certaine
many	maint	mainte
null, not any	nul	nulle
what (whatever)	quel	quelle
such, like	tel	telle
all	tout	toute

Some of these words may also be used as pronouns or adverbs; you can tell by the words they modify.

Examples: *J'ai posé une certaine question.*
certaine – indefinite adjective, modifies the noun *question*.

Certains sont venus.
certains – pronoun, replaces the real subject of *sont venus*

Pronouns

67. Pronouns take the place of nouns; therefore, the pronoun used must be of the same gender and number as the noun it replaces.

Examples: *Le livre est intéressant.*
Il est intéressant.

68. There are five kinds of pronouns:

- personal pronouns
- demonstrative pronouns
- possessive pronouns
- relative pronouns
- indefinite pronouns

Personal Pronouns

69. Personal pronouns are words which replace nouns and at the same time indicate to which grammatical person each replaced noun belongs.

70. There are three grammatical persons:

- first person – the one who speaks
- second person – the one spoken to
- third person – the one spoken about

Examples: *Ginette arrive.* (Ginette arrives.)

Elle arrive. (She arrives.)

Elle replaces *Ginette* and indicates that *Ginette* is being spoken of, and is, therefore, of the third person.

Jean, quand iras-tu? (John, when will you go?)

Tu replaces *Jean* and indicates that Jean is being spoken to, and is, therefore, of the second person.

Paul, viens-tu? Oui, je viens. (Are you coming? Yes, I am coming.)

In the second sentence, *je* replaces *Paul* and indicates that Paul is the person speaking, and is, therefore, of the first person.

71. These are the personal pronouns:

	Singular	Plural
1st person	je, me, moi	nous
2nd person	tu, te, toi	vous
3rd person	il, elle le, la lui, soi	ils, elles les leur, eux
	Se, en, y are of both number and genders.	

72. All of these words are not necessarily always personal pronouns. Some may be articles, adjectives, or adverbs, depending on which word they modify in a sentence.
73. The pronouns *moi*, *lui*, *nous*, *toi*, *elle(s)*, *vous*, *soi*, and *eux* may be used with the word *même* to form compound personal pronouns. They are always spelled with a hyphen.

moi-même myself
toi-même yourself
vous-même yourself
soi-même oneself
lui-même himself
elle-même herself

nous-mêmes ourselves
vous-mêmes yourselves
eux-mêmes themselves
elles-mêmes themselves

Notice the plural endings on the plural forms.

74. *Le*, *la*, and *les* are personal pronouns when they are used as objects of verbs. They are translated as *him*, *her*, *it*, and *them*.

Examples: *Donnez-la à Michel.* (Give **it** to Michael.)
Prenez-les. (Take **them**.)

Remember that if *le*, *la*, and *les* introduce nouns, they are called definite articles. They are translated as “the.”

Examples: *le garçon* (**the** boy)
la fille (**the** girl)
les enfants (**the** children)

75. *Leur* is a personal pronoun when it is used immediately before or after a verb. It means “to them.” It is never spelled with an *s*.

Examples: *Nous leur parlons.* (We will speak **to them**.)
Demandez-leur. (Ask **them**.)

If it introduces a noun, *leur* is a possessive adjective meaning *their*. In this case, it may be spelled with an *s*.

Example: *Ils ont perdu leurs livres*. (They lost **their** books.)

En and Y

76. *En* is sometimes referred to as a partitive pronoun when it denotes a part of a whole. It replaces the partitive article and the noun accompanying it.

Examples: *Ils ont de l'argent*. (They have **some money**.)
Ils en ont. (They have **some**.)

En replaces a noun used after an adverb of quantity or numbers and other expressions of quantity.

Examples: *Il y a beaucoup de neige*. (There is lots **of snow**.)
Il y en a beaucoup. (There is lots **of it**.)
Il a deux frères. (He has two **brothers**.)
Il en a deux. (He has two **of them**.)

En replaces a noun modified by a prepositional phrase beginning with *de*.

Examples: *Ils parlent de sports*. (They are talking **about sports**.)
Ils en parlent. (They are talking **about it**.)

En may also be translated as

- | | | |
|-------------|--------|------|
| • some of | } them | |
| • any of | | |
| • a lot of | | } it |
| • little of | | |

77. *Y* is used to replace a prepositional phrase beginning with *à*, which refers to a place or thing.

Examples: *Il va à la porte*. (He goes **to the door**.)
Il y va. (He goes **to it**.)
Nous allons au parc. (We are going **to the park**.)
Nous y allons. (We are going **there**.)

78. When *en* or *y* mean *there*, they are adverbs.

Examples: *J'y vais*. (I am going **there**.)
J'en viens. (I come **from there**.)

Position of Pronoun Objects

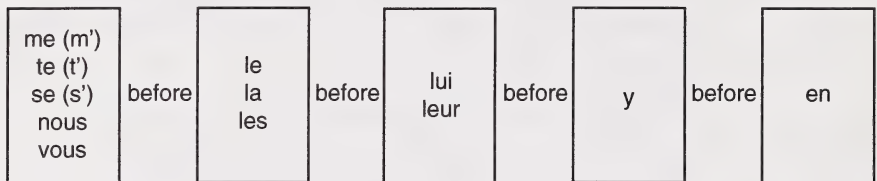
79. Except in affirmative commands, pronoun objects come **before** the verb.

Example: *Le* voici. (Here **it** is.)

In the case of a compound verb (with a helper), the pronoun objects come **before** the helping verb *avoir* or *être*.

Example: Je *l'*ai donné à Jean. (I gave **it** to John.)

If two or more pronoun objects occur in the same sentence, use the following order:



Remember these two rules:

- The first person precedes the second or third, and the second person precedes the third whether or not they are direct or indirect objects.
- When there are two objects in the third person, the direct precedes the indirect.

Examples: *Charles* **me le** donne. (*Me*, first person, precedes *le*, third person.)

Charles **vous le** donne. (*Vous*, second person precedes *le*, third person.)

Charles **le lui** donne. (*Le*, direct object precedes *lui*, indirect object.)

80. Here is the word order to follow in sentences with pronoun objects:

- in declarative (affirmative) sentences

Example:

Je	le lui	ai	donné
subject	object pronoun	helper	past participle

- in negative sentences

Examples:	Il	ne	lui en	parle	pas.
	subject	NE	object pronoun	verb	PAS

or

Il	ne	lui en	a	pas	parlé.
subject	NE	object pronoun	helper	PAS	past participle

- in interrogative sentences

Examples:	L'	avez-vous	vu?
	object pronoun	helper pronoun subject	past participle

Est-ce que	vous	l'	avez	vu?
EST-CE-QUE	subject	object pronoun	helper	past participle

Paul	vous	a-t-	il	vu?
noun subject	object pronoun	helper	pronoun subject	past participle

- in negative-interrogative sentences

Example:	Ne	l'	ont-	ils	pas	fait?
	NE	object pronoun	helper	subject pronoun	PAS	past participle

- in imperative sentences

Example: *Donnez-leur-en.* (affirmative command)

- The object pronouns **follow** the verb.
- The direct object precedes the indirect.
- Both are joined to the verb by hyphens.
- *Me* and *te* become *moi* and *toi* when placed after the verb, except before *y* and *en* when they become *m'* and *t'*.
- *Y* and *en* follow all other pronouns.

- In negative imperative sentences, follow the same rules as negative sentences.

Example: *Ne nous la donnez pas.*

Functions of Personal Pronouns

81. Since pronouns replace nouns, they have the same functions as nouns. They may be

- a subject – *Il est mon ami.*
- an object – *Apporte ce livre chez toi.*
- a predicate nominative – *La meilleure c'est elle.*
- a nominative of address – ***Vous**, soyez discrets.*
- an apposition (emphatic) – ***Lui**, il s'appelle Charles.*

Here is a chart to indicate the functions of pronouns.

	person	subject	direct object	indirect object	reflexive	emphatic
Singular	1st person	je	me (m')	me (m')	me (m')	moi
	2nd person	tu	te (t')	te (t')	te (t')	toi
	3rd person	il elle	le (l') le (l')	lui lui	se (s') se (s')	lui elle
Plural	1st person	nous	nous	nous	nous	nous
	2nd person	vous	vous	vous	vous	vous
	3rd person	ils elles	les les	leur leur	se (s') se (s')	eux elles

Agreement of Personal Pronouns

82. A personal pronoun must be of the same gender, number, and person as the noun it replaces.

Examples: *Mon cousin dit qu'il viendra.*
Ma soeur dit qu'elle est malade.
Nos parents disent qu'ils partiront.

When a personal pronoun replaces several nouns, it is always plural.

Example: *Mon frère et mon cousin disent qu'ils sont contents.*

If the nouns replaced are of different genders, the personal pronoun is masculine plural.

Example: *Mon frère et ma soeur disent qu'ils sont contents.*

If the nouns or pronouns replaced are of different persons, the personal pronoun is of the person which has priority (that is, first over second and third; second over third).

Examples: *Toi et moi, nous partirons.*

2nd + 1st = 1st person plural

Lui et toi, vous serez là.

3rd + 2nd = 2nd person plural

Jean et ses frères, ils viendront.

(lui) (eux)

3rd + 3rd = 3rd person plural

Demonstrative Pronouns

83. Here are the English equivalents for demonstrative pronouns:

- | | |
|--------|---------|
| • this | • these |
| • that | • those |

84. Demonstrative pronouns are those that point out the object in question. A demonstrative pronoun usually replaces a noun preceded by a demonstrative adjective.

Example: *Ce livre, c'est très intéressant.*

(This book, it is very interesting.)

You must be careful not to confuse *ce*, demonstrative adjective, with *ce*, demonstrative pronoun. In the example *Ce livre, c'est très intéressant*, the first *ce* modifies the noun *livre* and is therefore a demonstrative adjective, whereas the *c'* replaces *livre* and is therefore a demonstrative pronoun.

85. The demonstrative pronouns are sometimes linked to the words *ci* and *là* to form compound demonstrative pronouns. *Ci* is used to indicate objects that are near; *là* is used to indicate those that are farther away.

86. Here is a chart of demonstrative pronouns.

	Simple	Compound
Masculine	celui	celui-ci, celui-là
Feminine	celle	celle-ci, celle-là
Neuter	ce	ceci, cela
Masculine	ceux	ceux-ci, ceux-là
Feminine	celles	celles-ci, celles-là

87. Agreement of demonstrative pronouns must follow the same rules as usual (that is, they must agree in gender and in number with the nouns they replace).

Example: *Cette maison est plus belle que **celles** qui l'entourent.*
 (This house is more beautiful than those that surround it.)
Maisons is understood. It is feminine and plural, so *celles* must be used.

88. *Celui, ceux, celle, and celles* must always be followed by a relative pronoun or *de*.

Example: *J'ai reçu mon livre et celui que vous avez commandé.*
 (I received my book and the one that you ordered.)

Possessive Pronouns

89. Possessive pronouns replace nouns and at the same time indicate the possessor of the object mentioned. Possessive pronouns replace nouns preceded by a possessive adjective.

Example: *Sa cousine est plus âgée que **la mienne**.*
 (Her cousin is older than **mine**.)

90. Here is a chart of the possessive pronouns.

	Person	One Object Possessed		Many Objects Possessed	
		Masculine	Feminine	Masculine	Feminine
Singular	1st person	le mien	la mienne	les miens	les miennes
	2nd person	le tien	la tienne	les tiens	les tiennes
	3rd person	le sien	la sienne	les siens	les siennes
Plural	1st person	le nôtre	la nôtre	les nôtres	les nôtres
	2nd person	le vôtre	la vôtre	les vôtres	les vôtres
	3rd person	le leur	la leur	les leurs	les leurs

91. Here is a translation of the possessive pronouns:

- *le mien* mine
- *le tien* yours
- *le sien* his, hers
- *le nôtre* ours
- *le vôtre* yours
- *le leur* theirs

92. Possessive pronouns agree in gender and number with the thing possessed. They may be used to replace **only** nouns that have been previously mentioned.

Example: *Son cousin est plus âgé que le mien.*
 and **not**
Le sien est plus âgé que le mien.

93. What follows is a comparison chart of possessive adjectives and pronouns. (Remember that adjectives are used with nouns, and pronouns are used with verbs; also, adjectives **modify** nouns, and pronouns **replace** nouns.)

	Adjectives		Pronouns	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Masculine	mon	mes	la mien	les miens
Feminine	ma	mes	la mienne	les miennes
Masculine	ton	tes	le tien	les tiens
Feminine	ta	tes	la tienne	les tiennes
Masculine	son	ses	le sien	les siens
Feminine	sa	ses	la sienne	les siennes
Masculine	notre	nos	le nôtre	les nôtres
Feminine	notre	nos	la nôtre	les nôtres
Masculine	votre	vos	le vôtre	les vôtres
Feminine	votre	vos	la vôtre	les vôtres
Masculine	leur	leurs	le leur	les leurs
Feminine	leur	leurs	la leur	les leurs

Relative Pronouns

94. A relative pronoun links the noun it replaces to a clause which explains or describes the object in question. The noun replaced is called the antecedent.

Example: *Le travail **que** je fais m'intéresse.*
(The work **that** I do interests me.)

Que je fais (that I do) is a subordinate clause that modifies *travail* (work). It is introduced by the relative pronoun *que* (that), which replaces *travail* (work). *Que* is the direct object of *fais*; *travail* is the subject of *m'intéresse*.

95. Here are the relative pronouns.

Invariable
<i>qui</i> – who, whom, that, which, whoever,... <i>que</i> – who, which, what, that <i>quoi</i> – what, which <i>dont</i> – of which, of whom, whose,... <i>où</i> – where, at which, in which, to which

Variable		
	Singular	Plural
Masculine	lequel	lesquels
Feminine	laquelle	lesquelles
Masculine	auquel	auxquels
Feminine	à laquelle	auxquelles
Masculine	duquel	desquels
Feminine	de laquelle	desquelles

96. When relative pronouns are used to introduce questions, they are called interrogative pronouns.

Example: *Qui a fait cela?*
 (Who did that?)

97. *Que* is sometimes a conjunction. *Où* may be an adverb. The way to be sure is to look for the word they modify, or their function in the sentence. If there is an antecedent, you may be sure that these words are relative pronouns.

98. Relative pronouns agree in gender, number, and person with their antecedent. If there are several antecedents, the same rule of precedence as for personal pronouns applies.

99. Relative pronouns may be used as subjects or objects and they should always be placed as near to the antecedent as possible.

Indefinite Pronouns

100. Indefinite pronouns replace nouns, but are vague in meaning.

Example: *On frappe à la porte.*
 (Someone is at the door.)

101. Here are the indefinite pronouns.

Invariable
<i>autrui</i> – others <i>on</i> – someone, one, people <i>personne</i> – no one, anyone <i>quiconque</i> – whoever, whichever <i>quelque chose</i> – something <i>rien</i> – nothing

Variable		
	Singular	Plural
Masculine Feminine	chacun chacune	(no plural form)
Masculine Feminine	l'un l'une	les uns les unes
Masculine and Feminine	l'autre	les autres
Masculine Feminine	quelqu'un quelqu'une	quelques-uns quelques-unes

102. To this list also add the following. (These may also be adjectives. They are adjectives if they modify a noun; otherwise they are pronouns.)

- *aucun* none, no one
- *certain* certain
- *nul* null, void
- *plusieurs* several, some
- *tel* such as
- *tout* all, everything

103. *Personne*, *rien*, and *quelque chose* may be used as nouns if they are accompanied by articles or adjectives.

Examples: ***Personne*** n'est venu. (pronoun)
 Cette ***personne*** est grande. (noun)

Rien n'est si beau. (pronoun)
 Il se fâche pour un ***rien***. (noun)

Je sais ***quelque chose***. (pronoun)
Quelque chose que je fasse, il pleure. (noun)

Verbs

104. Verbs are probably the most complex part of French grammar. It is impossible to give all of the variations and exceptions of all of the verb rules here, so this booklet will deal only with the most common rules.
105. A verb is a word that expresses an action or a state of being. It tells what the subject of a sentence is **doing** or **how** the subject is.

Examples: *Paul étudie.* (what he is doing)
Il est travailleur. (what he is like)

106. Verbs are made up of two parts:

- the stem
- the ending

The stem of the verb is the beginning of it and is usually invariable. Its spelling remains the same.

The ending of a verb is the part that varies in spelling with each person, tense, or mood.

Chanter			Prendre		
Stem		Ending	Stem		Ending
Je	chant	e	Je	pren	d
Tu	chant	es	Tu	pren	ds
Il	chant	e	Il	pren	d
Nous	chant	ons	Nous	pren	ons
Vous	chant	ez	Vous	pren	ez
Ils	chant	ent	Ils	prenn	ent
Notice a small change in the last line. This is for ease in pronunciation.					

107. A verb changes according to

- number: singular or plural
- person: first, second, or third
- tense: present, past, future, etc.
- mood: indicative, imperative, subjunctive, etc.

Moods

108. The mood of a verb is the form it takes according to the way it expresses the action. There are six moods:

- the indicative
- the imperative
- the conditional
- the subjunctive
- the infinitive
- the participle

The indicative presents the action with certainty.

Examples: *j'étudie* (I study)
j'ai étudié (I studied)
j'étudierai (I shall study)

The imperative presents the action as a command.

Examples: *Ouvre la porte.* (Open the door.)
Étudie tes leçons. (Study your lessons.)
Allons à la plage. (Let's go to the beach.)

The conditional presents the action as depending on a condition.

Examples: *j'étudierais si...* (I would study if...)
j'irais si... (I would go if...)

The subjunctive presents the action as doubtful or uncertain, because it depends on another uncertain circumstance.

Example: *S'il vient, Paul désire que je le voie.*
 (If he comes, Paul wishes that I see him.)

The infinitive is the "name" form of the verb. It presents the action rather vaguely or in an undefined way. Infinitives may be used as nouns.

Example: *Étudier est fatigant.* (**To study** is tiring.)

The participle presents actions that are both acts and qualities. Participles may be used as adjectives or nouns.

Example: *Vous me verrez étudiant mes leçons.*
 (You will see me **studying** my lessons.)

109. The indicative, imperative, conditional, and subjunctive are called personal moods, because they have differently spelled endings for each person.

The infinitive and the participle are impersonal moods, because they have only one ending for each person.

Tenses

110. Tense is the form a verb takes to indicate at what time an action takes place. There are three main tenses: past, present, future; and there are some variations of each of these.

The **present tense** indicates an action taking place at the time you are speaking.

Example: *j'étudie* (I am studying, or, I study)

This tense has no variations, because the present only lasts for a moment; therefore, one form is sufficient to express it.

The **past tense** indicates an action that happened previously.

Example: *J'ai étudié hier.* (I studied yesterday.)

Because the action may have taken place at various points in the past, there are many ways to express a past form. There are six ways in the indicative mood, two in the conditional, and three in the subjunctive.

In the **indicative mood** these are

- the imperfect

The imperfect tense (*l'imparfait*) indicates circumstances surrounding a past action, such as weather, physical appearance, or mental state. It also expresses repetition or habitual action.

Example: *Il neigeait quand je suis sorti.*
(It **was snowing** when I went out.)

J'étudiais quand mon frère est entré.
(I **was studying** when my brother came in.)

The **passé récent** or **recent past** tense expresses actions that have just finished happening. It uses the present indicative of *venir*, plus the preposition *de*, plus the **infinitive** of the main verb.

Examples: *Je viens d'écrire la lettre.*
(I **just finished writing** the letter.)

Vous venez de manger?
(You **have just finished eating**?)

Elle vient d'arriver.
(She **just arrived**.)

- the past indefinite

The past indefinite (*passé composé*) denotes an action completed in the past. This is the form used in everyday conversation and is the past tense you will hear and read most often.

Examples: *J'ai étudié hier.* (I studied yesterday.)
J'ai étudié aujourd'hui. (I studied today.)

- the past definite

The past definite (*passé simple*) indicates an action that happened in the complete past. It is often used in literature relating historical events.

Example: *J'étudiai la semaine dernière.* (I studied last week.)

- the pluperfect

The pluperfect (*plus-que-parfait*) indicates an action that happened before another completely past action.

Example: *J'avais étudié mes leçons quand tu es arrivé.*
 (I **had studied** my lessons when you arrived.)

- the past anterior

The past anterior (*passé antérieur*) indicates a past action that happened immediately before another completely past action. It occurs mostly in literature. In conversation, the pluperfect is used instead.

Example: *Quand j'eus étudié mes leçons, je commençai à lire.*
 (When I **had studied** my lessons, I began to read.)

The **future tense** indicates an action that will take place some time after you are speaking.

Example: *J'étudierai demain.* (I will study tomorrow.)

There are three future forms:

- simple future

The simple future (*futur simple*) indicates an action that will take place.

Example: *J'étudierai.* (I will study.)

The *future proche* or **near future** is expressed identically in French and English. Both languages use the present indicative of the verb *aller* (to go) plus the **infinitive** form of the main verb expressing the action. It is most frequently used in conversation as an alternative to the *futur simple*.

Examples: *Je vais manger maintenant.*
(**I am going** to eat now.)

Elle va lire le livre.
(**She is going** to read the book.)

Ils vont se fâcher.
(**They are going** to get angry.)

- anterior future

The anterior future indicates an action that will take place before another future action.

Example: *J'aurai étudié mes leçons quand vous arriverez.*
(**I will have studied** my lessons when you arrive.)

111. There are two kinds of tenses:

- simple

In a simple tense, the verb has no helper (auxiliary).

Example: *Je chante.*

- compound

In a compound tense, the verb has a helper, also called an auxiliary verb.

Example: *J'ai chanté.*

112. The helping verbs used in compound tenses are *avoir* and *être*.

113. Conjugating a verb means listing it in its moods, tenses, numbers, and persons. Verbs are divided into groups according to the spelling of their infinitive form. Each group follows special spelling rules. In each group there are some exceptions, but these groupings do help in conjugating a verb.

Verbs of the first conjugation are those that end in *er* in their infinitive form excepting *aller*.

Examples: *chanter, aimer, pleurer*

The second conjugation verbs end in *ir*.

Examples: *finir, dormir, fuir*

Third conjugation verbs end in *re*.

Examples: *vendre, rendre, prendre*

114. There are five basic tenses that are called *primitive* tenses (because they come first). They are

- the infinitive
- the present indicative
- the present participle
- the past definite (*passé simple*)
- the past participle

By making minor changes in the spelling of these five tenses, you can form the other tenses of a verb, which are called *derived* tenses (because they are derived from the primitive tenses). You form these tenses by varying the endings on the stem of the verb.

Conjugation

115. Here is a summarized chart of the conjugation of three verbs showing primitive and derived tenses.

Infinitive	chanter	finir	vendre
simple future	je chanterai	je finirai	je vendrai
present conditional	je chanterais	je finirais	je vendrais
Present Participle	chantant	finissant	vendant
plural present indicative	nous chantons	nous finissons	nous vendons
imperfect indicative	je chantais	je finissais	je vendais
present subjunctive	que je chante	que je finisse	que je vende
Present Indicative	tu chantes	tu finis	tu vends
imperative	chante	finis	vends
Past Definite (Passé simple)	tu chantas	tu finis	tu vendis
imperfect subjunctive	que je chantasse	que je finisse	que je vendisse
Past Participle	chanté	fini	vendu

116. The following are examples of complete conjugations.

Verb Avoir			
Infinitive Mood		Participle Mood	
Present: <i>avoir</i>	Past: <i>avoir eu</i>	Present: <i>ayant</i>	Past: <i>ayant eu</i>
Indicative Mood		Conditional Mood	
Present	Past Indefinite (<i>Passé Composé</i>)	Present	Past
J'ai	J'ai eu	J'aurais	J'aurais eu
Tu as	Tu as eu	Tu aurais	Tu aurais eu
Il a	Il a eu	Il aurait	Il aurait eu
Nous avons	Nous avons eu	Nous aurions	Nous aurions eu
Vous avez	Vous avez eu	Vous auriez	Vous auriez eu
Ils ont	Ils ont eu	Ils auraient	Ils auraient eu
Imperfect	Pluperfect	Subjunctive Mood	
J'avais	J'avais eu	Present	Past
Tu avais	Tu avais eu	que j'aie	que j'aie eu
Il avait	Il avait eu	que tu aies	que tu aies eu
Nous avions	Nous avions eu	qu'il ait	qu'il ait eu
Vous aviez	Vous aviez eu	que nous ayons	que nous ayons eu
Ils avaient	Ils ont eu	que vous ayez	que vous ayez eu
Past Definite (<i>Passé Simple</i>)	Simple Future	qu'ils aient	qu'ils aient eu
J'eus	J'aurai	Imperative Mood	
Tu eus	Tu auras	Present	
Il eut	Il aura	aie	
Nous eûmes	Nous aurons	ayons	
Vous eûtes	Vous aurez	ayez	
Ils eurent	Ils auront		
Future Anterior			
J'aurai eu			
Tu auras eu			
Il aura eu			
Nous aurons eu			
Vous aurez eu			
Ils auront eu			

Verb Être			
Infinitive Mood		Participle Mood	
Present: <i>être</i>	Past: <i>avoir été</i>	Present: <i>étant</i>	Past: <i>ayant été</i>
Indicative Mood		Conditional Mood	
Present	Past Indefinite (<i>Passé Composé</i>)	Present	Past
Je suis	J'ai été	Je serais	J'aurais été
Tu es	Tu as été	Tu serais	Tu aurais été
Il est	Il a été	Il serait	Il aurait été
Nous sommes	Nous avons été	Nous serions	Nous aurions été
Vous êtes	Vous avez été	Vous seriez	Vous auriez été
Ils sont	Ils ont été	Ils seraient	Ils auraient été
Imperfect	Pluperfect	Subjunctive Mood	
J'étais	J'avais été	Present	Past
Tu étais	Tu avais été	que je sois	que j'aie été
Il était	Il avait été	que tu sois	que tu aies été
Nous étions	Nous avions été	qu'il soit	qu'il ait été
Vous étiez	Vous aviez été	que nous soyons	que nous ayons été
Ils étaient	Ils ont été	que vous soyez	que vous ayez été
Past Definite (<i>Passé Simple</i>)	Simple Future	qu'ils soient	qu'ils aient été
Je fus	Je serai	Imperative Mood	
Tu fus	Tu seras	Present	
Il fut	Il sera	sois	
Nous fûmes	Nous serons	soyons	
Vous fûtes	Vous serez	soyez	
Il furent	Ils seront		
Future Anterior			
J'aurai été			
Tu auras été			
Il aura été			
Nous aurons été			
Vous aurez été			
Ils auront été			

ER Verb: Chanter			
Infinitive Mood		Participle Mood	
Present: <i>chanter</i> Past: <i>avoir chanté</i>		Present: <i>chantant</i> Past: <i>ayant chanté</i>	
Indicative Mood		Conditional Mood	
Present	Past Indefinite (<i>Passé Composé</i>)	Present	Past
Je chante	J'ai chanté	Je chanterais	J'aurais chanté
Tu chantes	Tu as chanté	Tu chanterais	Tu aurais chanté
Il chante	Il a chanté	Il chanterait	Il aurait chanté
Nous chantons	Nous avons chanté	Nous chanterions	Nous aurions chanté
Vous chantez	Vous avez chanté	Vous chanteriez	Vous auriez chanté
Ils chantent	Ils ont chanté	Ils chanteraient	Ils auraient chanté
Imperfect	Pluperfect	Subjunctive Mood	
Je chantais	J'avais chanté	Present	Past
Tu chantais	Tu avais chanté	que je chante	que j'aie chanté
Il chantais	Il avait chanté	que tu chantes	que tu aies chanté
Nous chantions	Nous avions chanté	qu'il chante	qu'il ait chanté
Vous chantiez	Vous aviez chanté	que nous chantions	que nous ayons chanté
Ils chantaient	Ils avaient chanté	que vous chantiez	que vous ayez chanté
Past Definite (<i>Passé Simple</i>)	Simple Future	qu'ils chantent	qu'ils aient chanté
Je chantai	Je chanterai	Imperative Mood	
Tu chantas	Tu chanteras	Present	
Il chanta	Il chantera	chante	
Nous chantâmes	Nous chanterons	chantons	
Vous chantâtes	Vous chanterez	chantez	
Ils chantèrent	Ils chanteront		
Future Anterior			
J'aurai chanté			
Tu auras chanté			
Il aura chanté			
Nous aurons chanté			
Vous aurez chanté			
Ils auront chanté			

IR Verb: Finir			
Infinitive Mood		Participle Mood	
Present: <i>finir</i> Past: <i>avoir fini</i>		Present: <i>finissant</i> Past: <i>ayant fini</i>	
Indicative Mood		Conditional Mood	
Present	Past Indefinite (<i>Passé Composé</i>)	Present	Past
Je finis	J'ai fini	Je finirais	J'aurais fini
Tu finis	Tu as fini	Tu finirais	Tu aurais fini
Il finit	Il a fini	Il finirait	Il aurait fini
Nous finissons	Nous avons fini	Nous finirions	Nous aurions fini
Vous finissez	Vous avez fini	Vous finiriez	Vous auriez fini
Ils finissent	Ils ont fini	Ils finiraient	Ils auraient fini
Imperfect	Pluperfect	Subjunctive Mood	
Je finissais	J'avais fini	Present	Past
Tu finissais	Tu avais fini	que je finisse	que j'aie fini
Il finissait	Il avait fini	que tu finisses	que tu aies fini
Nous finissions	Nous avions fini	qu'il finisse	qu'il ait fini
Vous finissiez	Vous aviez fini	que nous finissions	que nous ayons fini
Ils finissaient	Ils avaient fini	que vous finissiez	que vous ayez fini
Past Definite (<i>Passé Simple</i>)	Simple Future	qu'ils finissent	qu'ils aient fini
Je finis	Je finirai	Imperative Mood	
Tu finis	Tu finiras	Present	
Il finit	Il finira	finis	
Nous finîmes	Nous finirons	finissons	
Vous finîtes	Vous finirez	finissez	
Ils finirent	Ils finiront		
Future Anterior			
J'aurai fini			
Tu auras fini			
Il aura fini			
Nous aurons fini			
Vous aurez fini			
Ils auront fini			

RE Verb: Vendre			
Infinitive Mood		Participle Mood	
Present: <i>vendre</i> Past: <i>avoir vendu</i>		Present: <i>vendant</i> Past: <i>ayant vendu</i>	
Indicative Mood		Conditional Mood	
Present	Past Indefinite (<i>Passé Composé</i>)	Present	Past
Je vends	J'ai vendu	Je vendrais	J'aurais vendu
Tu vends	Tu as vendu	Tu vendrais	Tu aurais vendu
Il vend	Il a vendu	Il vendrait	Il aurait vendu
Nous vendons	Nous avons vendu	Nous vendrions	Nous aurions vendu
Vous vendez	Vous avez vendu	Vous vendriez	Vous auriez vendu
Ils vendent	Ils ont vendu	Ils vendraient	Ils auraient vendu
Imperfect	Pluperfect	Subjunctive Mood	
Je vendais	J'avais vendu	Present	Past
Tu vendais	Tu avais vendu	que je vende	que j'aie vendu
Il vendait	Il avait vendu	que tu vendes	que tu aies vendu
Nous vendions	Nous avions vendu	qu'il vende	qu'il ait vendu
Vous vendiez	Vous aviez vendu	que nous vendions	que nous ayons vendu
Ils vendaient	Ils avaient vendu	que vous vendiez	que vous ayez vendu
Past Definite (<i>Passé Simple</i>)	Simple Future	qu'ils vendent	qu'ils aient vendu
Je vendis	Je vendrai	Imperative Mood	
Tu vendis	Tu vendras	Present	
Il vendit	Il vendra	vends	
Nous vendîmes	Nous vendrons	vendons	
Vous vendîtes	Vous vendrez	vendez	
Ils vendirent	Ils vendront		
Future Anterior			
J'aurai vendu			
Tu auras vendu			
Il aura vendu			
Nous aurons vendu			
Vous aurez vendu			
Ils auront vendu			

Kinds of Verbs

117. There are five kinds of verb:

- transitive
- intransitive
- passive
- reflexive
- impersonal

Transitive and Intransitive Verbs

118. Transitive verbs always have a direct object. You can recognize them if you can say *someone* or *something* after them.

Examples: to love someone	(<i>aimer quelqu'un</i>)
to write something	(<i>écrire quelque chose</i>)
to take something	(<i>prendre quelque chose</i>)

119. Intransitive verbs do not have direct objects, and putting the words *someone* or *something* after them usually makes no sense.

Examples: to laugh	someone?	something?	(<i>rire quelqu'un?</i>)
to depart	someone?	something?	(<i>partir quelqu'un?</i>)

120. Transitive verbs **always** use the auxiliary verb *avoir* in the conjugation of their compound tenses, whereas intransitive verbs **sometimes** use the auxiliary *être*.

121. Some verbs may be both transitive and intransitive according to their meaning.

Examples: to speak French	(transitive)
to speak to my sister	(intransitive)

The first example has a direct object – to speak (what?) French. The second example has no direct object, but rather an indirect object – to speak (to whom?) to my sister.

Passive Verbs

122. Passive verbs express an action **received** by the subject.

Example: *La souris est mangée par le chat.*
(The mouse is eaten by the cat.)

A passive verb may be recognized by saying *by someone* or *by something* after it.

Examples: is injured	by someone
was heard	by someone
were hit	by someone or by something

A passive verb is always conjugated with the auxiliary *être* (to be).

Example: *Il a été blessé.* (He **was injured.**)

123. Only transitive verbs may be changed to passive verbs. To make this change, you must take the direct object of the transitive verb and make it the subject of the passive verb. The subject of the transitive verb preceded by a preposition such as *of*, *by*, or *for* then becomes the indirect object of the passive verb.

Examples: Transitive — *Le chat mange la souris.*
 (The cat) (eats) (the mouse.)
 (Subject) (Transitive verb) (Direct object)

Passive — *La souris est mangée par le chat.*
 (The mouse) (is eaten) (by the cat.)
 (Subject) (Passive verb) (Indirect object)

Reflexive Verbs

124. Reflexive verbs are those in which a reflexive pronoun reflects the action back upon the subject.

Examples: *Je me lève.* I get (myself) up.
Il se promène. He goes for a walk (himself).
Les chats se battent. The cats are fighting (themselves).

Impersonal Verbs

125. Impersonal verbs are those that are conjugated in **one** person only – the third person singular. The subject *il* represents no one or nothing in particular.

Examples: *Il neige.* It is snowing.
Il pleut. It is raining.
Il arrive des accidents. Accidents happen.

Forms of Conjugation

126. There are different forms of conjugation:

- affirmative
- negative
- interrogative
- negative-interrogative

Examples: *Vous chantez.* (affirmative)
Vous ne chantez pas. (negative)
Chantez-vous? (interrogative)
Ne chantez-vous pas? (negative-interrogative)

Negative

127. To conjugate a verb in the negative form, you add a negation such as

- ne...pas
- ne...point
- ne...plus
- ne...jamais

The first part of the negation, *ne*, is always placed **before** the verb.

Examples: *Je ne change pas.*
Il n'arrive pas.

The second part of the negation, *pas, plus, jamais*, etc., comes after the **verb** (in simple tenses) and after the **auxiliary** (in compound tenses).

Examples: *Je ne parle pas.* (simple tense)
Je n'ai pas parlé. (compound tense)

The entire negation is placed before the verb in the infinitive mood only.

Examples: *Ne pas parler.*
Ne jamais travailler.

Interrogative

128. To conjugate an interrogative verb, place the pronoun subject

- after the **verb** in simple tenses.

Examples: *Parles-tu? Parlez-vous?*

- after the first **auxiliary** in compound tenses.

Examples: *As-tu parlé? Avez-vous parlé?*

If the subject is a noun, then it remains before the verb; however, a corresponding pronoun is added after the verb or auxiliary.

Examples: *Ma soeur parlait-elle?*
Tes amis ont-ils parlé?

If the interrogation begins with *est-ce que*, then the pronoun subject remains before the verb.

Examples: *Est-ce que nous parlons?*
Est-ce que vous allez?

Only the indicative and conditional moods have interrogative forms.

Negative-Interrogative

129. To conjugate a verb in the negative-interrogative form, use the following order:

- present tense

ne + verb + subject + pas

Example: *Ne parlez-vous pas?*

- past tense

ne + auxiliary + subject + pas + past participle

Example: *N'as-tu pas parlé?*

Using Moods and Tenses

Indicative

130. The **indicative mood** is used to express with certitude an action taking place, an action that took place, or an action that will take place.

- The **present** tense expresses an action taking place at the moment.

Example: *J'étudie en ce moment.*

It also expresses something that is usually or always true.

Examples: *Je mange tous les jours.*
La terre tourne.

In a story, the present may be used to give more actuality to a situation.

Examples: *Maisonnette vient au Canada et fonde Montréal.*

The present tense may also express an action taking place in the immediate future.

Example: *Il part demain.*

- The **imperfect** tense is used to express an action that is part of the circumstances surrounding another past action.

Example: *J'étudiais quand mon frère est entré.*

It is also used to describe repeated action in the past or usual happenings.

Example: *Nous **partions** pour l'école à 8:30.*

The imperfect tense is used to express a physical state or a state of mind in the past. This usually occurs in descriptions or stories.

Examples: *Les arbres **grandissaient**.
Nous **étions** tous malades ce jour-là.
La terre **était** merveilleuse.*

The **passé récent** or **recent past** tense expresses actions that have just finished happening. It uses the present indicative of *venir*, plus the preposition *de*, plus the **infinitive** of the main verb.

Examples: *Je **viens d'écrire** la lettre.*
(I **just finished writing** the letter.)

*Vous **venez de manger**?*
(You **have just finished eating**?)

*Elle **vient d'arriver**.*
(She **just arrived**.)

- The **passé composé** or **past indefinite** is used to express action completed at some point in the past. This is the most frequently used past tense in French.

Examples: *J'**ai étudié** hier.
J'**ai étudié** aujourd'hui.*

Sometimes it is used for a future anterior following immediately.

Example: *J'**ai fini** dans un instant.*

- The **passé simple** or **past definite** tense is used in literature as an alternative to the **passé composé** to express an action that has been completed in the past.

Example: *J'**étudiai** la semaine dernière.*

- The **pluperfect** tense is used to express an action that happened immediately before another past action.

Example: *J'**avais étudié** quand mon frère est arrivé.*

- The **past anterior** is sometimes used in literature instead of the pluperfect to express an action that happened immediately before another past action.

Examples: *Dès que j'eus étudié mes leçons, je commençai à lire.*

- The **futur simple** or **simple future** tense is used to express an action that will happen. It is also used to give a less domineering tone to a command.

Examples: *J'étudierai ce soir.*

Vous viendrez à deux heures.

instead of

Venez à deux heures.

The **future proche** or **near future** is expressed identically in French and English. Both languages use the present indicative of the verb *aller* (to go) plus the **infinitive** form of the main verb expressing the action. It is most frequently used in conversation as an alternative to the **futur simple**.

Examples: *Je vais manger maintenant.*

(I am going to eat now.)

Elle va lire le livre.

(She is going to read the book.)

Ils vont se fâcher.

(They are going to get angry.)

- The **future anterior** is used to denote what will have happened before another future action begins.

Example: *J'aurai fini quand il arrivera.*

Conditional

131. The **conditional mood** expresses an action that is dependent on a condition or implies a possibility. It is used in sentences with a *si* (if) clause. The *si* clause states the condition. The result clause may come before or after the *si* clause.

Examples: *Si j'étais riche, j'achèterais l'auto.*

(condition)

(result)

or

J'achèterais l'auto, si j'étais riche.

(result)

(condition)

Here is a chart of tenses to use in conditional sentences.

If the verb of the <i>si</i> clause is	The verb of the result clause should be
present	present future imperative
imperfect	conditional
pluperfect	past conditional

- As you can see from the chart, the **present conditional** is used in sentences where the *si* clause verb is in the imperfect tense.

Example: *Elle viendrait si elle était prête.*

- The **past conditional** is used to translate “should have” or “would have” plus a past participle. It is used in the result clause when the pluperfect is used in the *si* clause.

Example: *J'aurais acheté l'auto si j'avais été riche.*

Imperative

The **imperative mood** is used to express commands, advice, or wishes.

Examples: *Étudions nos leçons.*
Viens ici.

Subjunctive

132. The **subjunctive mood** presents an action as being doubtful or uncertain. It is used in subordinate clauses

- after impersonal expressions

Example: *Il faut qu'il fasse ses devoirs.*

- after expressions of emotion, desire, command

Examples: *Il veut que je parte immédiatement.*
Je doute qu'il réussisse.

- after certain conjunctions

Examples: *Quoiqu'elle soit malade, elle viendra.*
Afin que vous puissiez voir, venez vite.

- after verbs expressing belief in the negative or interrogative forms

Examples: *Je ne pense pas qu'il parte aujourd'hui.*
Croyez-vous qu'il revienne?

- after certain superlative expressions

Example: *C'est le meilleur livre que j'aie lu.*

Since the subjunctive verbs are always found in the subordinate clauses, it is sometimes difficult to know which tense to use. Here is a chart to help you.

If the verb in the principal clause is	The subordinate clause verb will be
present indicative or future indicative	— present subjunctive if the action is not yet done — past subjunctive if the action is already done
one of the past indicatives or the present conditional	— imperfect subjunctive if the action is not yet done — pluperfect subjunctive if the action is already done

Here are examples of the subjunctive forms.

Je veux qu'il écrive.

(I wish that he would write.)

Je veux qu'il écrive.

present indicative present subjunctive (action not done)

Je demanderez qu'il parte.

(I will ask that he leave.)

Je demanderez qu'il parte.

future indicative present subjunctive (action not done)

Je m'étonne qu'il ait écrit déjà.

(I am surprised that he has written already.)

Je m'étonne qu'il ait écrit.

present indicative past subjunctive (action done)

Je regretterai toujours qu'il soit parti.

(I will always regret that he has left.)

Je regretterai qu'il soit parti.

future indicative past subjunctive (action done)

Je désirais qu'il écrivît.

(I wished that he would write.)

Je désirais qu'il écrivît.

imperfect indicative (negative) imperfect subjunctive (action not done)

Je ne savais pas qu'il eût écrit.

(I didn't know that he had written.)

Je ne savais pas qu'il eût écrit.

imperfect indicative (negative) pluperfect subjunctive (action done)

Note: The sound of the imperfect subjunctive is usually displeasing. It is a literary form and is often replaced by the present subjunctive for the informal conversational style.

Je voudrais que vous vous promenassiez avec moi.

(I would like you to walk with me.)

que vous vous promenassiez

imperfect subjunctive, reflexive form, literary use

Je voudrais que vous vous promeniez avec moi.

(I would like you to walk with me.)

que vous vous promeniez

present subjunctive, reflexive form, conversational use

Infinitive

133. The **infinitive mood** is the name of the verb. It may have all the same functions as a noun; it may be a subject, object, or subjective complement.

Examples: *Travailler est nécessaire.* (subject)

Il aime lire. (direct object)

Il pense à partir. (indirect object)

Chanter n'est pas crier. (subject complement)

Participles

134. The **participle mood** may be used as a verb or adjective.

Examples: *En plaisant à Pierre, on déplaît à Paul.*

plaisant: verb (present participle)

C'est un jeu plaisant.

plaisant: adjective (modifies *jeu*)

The participle has two tenses:

- The **present participle** always ends with *ant*. Its uses are those of the verb or the adjective as shown in the previous examples.
- The **past participle** has the same uses as the present participle, but it is also used to form compound verb tenses. Verbs ending in *er* have a past participle ending in *é*.

Examples: *chanter – chanté*
parler – parlé
manger – mangé

The past principle of **most** *ir* verbs is formed by dropping the *r* from the infinitive.

Examples: *finir – fini*
choisir – choisi

The past participle of **most** *re* verbs is formed by changing the *re* to *u*.

Examples: *vendre – vendu*
mordre – mordu

Many *ir* and *re* verbs do **not** follow these patterns.

Examples: *venir – venu*
prendre – pris
faire – fait

The past participle used without a helper is really an adjective and agrees in number and gender with the noun it modifies.

Examples: *un devoir terminé*
une peinture terminée

A past participle used with the helping verb *être* is usually a subjective complement and, therefore, agrees with the subject it completes.

Examples: *Ce devoir est terminé.*
Cette peinture est terminée.

A past participle with the auxiliary *avoir* agrees with the direct object of the verb when this object is placed **before** the participle. If the direct object comes after the participle, or if there is no direct object, the participle remains invariable in spelling.

Examples: *Quelles belles histoires nous avons **lues**.*

The direct object (*histoires*) comes before the participle, so *lues* agrees with *histoires* (feminine plural).

*Nous avons **lu** de belles histoires.*

The direct object (*histoires*) follows the participle, so there is no agreement.

*Nous avons **lu** avec attention.*

There is no direct object.

Agreement of Verbs

135. A verb agrees in number and person with its subject. If there is more than one subject, the verb is plural.

Examples: *Jean et Paul **sont** mes amis.*

*Les chiens **mangent**.*

If the subjects are of different persons, the verb is plural and in the person of priority.

Examples: *Toi et moi **parlerons**.*

2nd + 1st = 1st person plural

*Vous et lui **viendrez** chez nous.*

2nd + 3rd = 2nd person plural

*Les enfants et leurs parents **sont** venus.*

3rd + 3rd = 3rd person plural

If the subjects are jointed by *ou* or *ni*, the verb is

- singular if the action expressed by the verb applies to only one subject

Example: *M. Cluny ou son fils nous **parlera**.*

(Mr. Cluny or his son will speak to us.)

- plural if the action expressed by the verb applies to all of the subjects

Example: *Ni la viande ni les légumes **sont** frais.*

(Neither the meat nor the vegetables are fresh.)

- If there are several subjects and these are not joined by a conjunction but are simply enumerated or synonymous, the verb agrees with the one nearest to it.

Example: *Un sourire, une parole, un serrement de main **suffit** à le rendre de bonne humeur.*

(A smile, a word, a handshake suffices to put him in good humor.)

- If the subject is a collective noun, the verb agrees with it.

Example: *La foule **crie** « A mort! »*

(The crowd yells “Death!”)

- If the collective noun has an object that gives it a partitive sense, then the verb agrees with the object.

Example: *Une foule d’enfants **crient** avec joie.*

(A crowd of children shouts with joy.)

Adverbs

136. An adverb is an invariable word that is added to a verb, an adjective, or another adverb to complete or modify it.

Examples: *Vous agissez **prudemment**.*

*La prairie est **infiniment** grande.*

*Il courrait très **rapidement**.*

137. An adverbial phrase is a group of words used as an adverb.

Examples: *à present* presently

à peu près about

sans doute undoubtedly

tout à coup suddenly

tout à l’heure after a while, later

138. Adverbs are grouped according to the ways in which they modify words.

Adverbs of **manner** answer the question *how*.

ainsi this way

bien well

mal wrongly, badly

mieux better

vite quickly

exprès purposely

en vain in vain

par hasard by chance

à regret regretfully

heureusement happily

prudemment prudently

all other adverbs ending in *ment* (corresponding to English adverbs ending in “ly”)

Adverbs of **time** answer the question *when*.

<i>aujourd'hui</i>	today	<i>autrefois</i>	formerly
<i>maintenant</i>	now	<i>demain</i>	tomorrow
<i>hier</i>	yesterday	<i>bientôt</i>	soon

Adverbs of **place** answer the question *where*.

<i>ici</i>	here	<i>dessus</i>	over
<i>là</i>	there	<i>dessous</i>	under
<i>ailleurs</i>	elsewhere	<i>dedans</i>	inside
<i>près</i>	near	<i>dehors</i>	outside
<i>loin</i>	far	<i>à côté</i>	beside

Adverbs of **sequence** answer *when* in relation to other events.

<i>auparavant</i>	before
<i>d'abord</i>	in the first place
<i>ensuite</i>	then, next
<i>puis</i>	and then
<i>enfin</i>	finally

Adverbs of **quantity** answer the question *how much*.

<i>beaucoup</i>	lots	<i>combien</i>	how many
<i>peu</i>	little	<i>davantage</i>	more
<i>assez</i>	enough	<i>tout à fait</i>	entirely
<i>trop</i>	too much	<i>le plus</i>	the most

Adverbs of **affirmation, negation, and doubt** express *yes, no, or maybe*.

<i>certes</i>	surely	<i>peut-être</i>	maybe
<i>oui</i>	yes	<i>non</i>	no
<i>si</i>	so, yes	<i>ne...pas</i>	not
<i>assurément</i>	assuredly	<i>ne...jamais</i>	never
<i>certainement</i>	certainly	<i>ne...plus</i>	no more, no longer

Prepositions

139. A preposition is an invariable word that is used to unite another word with its modifier.

Example: *Philippe travaille avec ardeur.*
Avec unites *travaille* and *ardeur*.

140. A prepositional phrase is a preposition, noun, and sometimes its modifiers, that describes a noun or a verb.

Examples: *au coin* to the corner
sur la chaise on the chair
jusqu'à midi until noon

141. Here are the most common prepositions:

<i>à</i>	to	<i>hors</i>	without
<i>après</i>	after	<i>malgré</i>	in spite of
<i>avant</i>	before	<i>moyennant</i>	by means of
<i>avec</i>	with	<i>outré</i>	beyond
<i>chez</i>	at, to	<i>par</i>	by
<i>contre</i>	against	<i>parmi</i>	among
<i>dans</i>	in	<i>pendant</i>	during
<i>de</i>	of	<i>pour</i>	for
<i>depuis</i>	since	<i>près</i>	near
<i>derrière</i>	behind	<i>sans</i>	without
<i>dès</i>	as soon as	<i>selon</i>	according to
<i>devant</i>	in front of	<i>sur</i>	on
<i>en</i>	in, into	<i>vers</i>	towards
<i>entre</i>	between	<i>voici</i>	here is
<i>envers</i>	towards	<i>voilà</i>	there is
<i>hormis</i>	except, unless		

Conjunctions

142. Conjunctions are invariable words that unite two similar words, phrases, or clauses.

Examples: *Jean et Jeannette sont jumeaux.*
Et unites two nouns.

Il aime rire mais pas pleurer.
Mais unites two verbs.

La balle roula tout autour de la planche et en-dessous du lit.
Et unites two prepositional phrases.

Je sais que Jean viendra.
Que unites two clauses.

143. A conjunctive phrase is a group of words used as a conjunction.

Examples: *ou bien* or else
afin que so that
moins que unless
pour que so that, in order that

144. There are two kinds of conjunctions:

- coordinating
- subordinating

Coordinating Conjunctions

145. Coordinating conjunctions unite two words, phrases, or clauses of the same kind.

Examples: *Suzette **et** Pauline sont médecins.*
*Le stylo est sur le pupitre **ou** dans sa poche.*
*Le chien, il est amical, **mais** le chat est hostile.*

146. Here are the main coordinating conjunctions:

et and
ou or
mais but
ainsi and so
ni neither, nor

Subordinating Conjunctions

147. Subordinating conjunctions unite subordinate clauses to the principal or independent clause.

Examples: *Je dois aller au magasin **parce que** j'ai besoin de provisions.*
*Nous travaillons **jusqu'à** nous aurons fini.*

148. The main subordinating conjunctions are

<i>si</i> if	<i>parce que</i> because
<i>sinon</i> unless	<i>jusqu'à</i> until
<i>comme</i> as	<i>depuis que</i> since
<i>car</i> because	<i>quand</i> when

que and all its compound forms like *lorsque*, *puisque*, *quoique*

Clauses

149. A clause is a group of words that has a subject and a verb.

150. Each clause **must** have at least a subject and a verb. It **may** also have objects or modifiers. Sometimes these subjects, verbs, and objects are not written down, but are understood. Even in those cases, they are considered to be part of the clause.

151. There are two kinds of clauses:

- independent (principal)
- subordinate

Independent Clause

152. An independent clause has a complete thought in itself and so can be a complete sentence.

Example: *C'est une belle journée.*

153. An independent clause may also be only a part of a sentence if a conjunction joins it to another independent clause or joins a subordinate clause to it.

Examples: *Les jeunes filles jouent au base-ball et les garçons jouent au football.*
C'est une belle journée parce qu'il fait du soleil.

Subordinate Clause

154. A subordinate clause does not have a complete thought by itself; it must be completed by a principal clause.

Example: *Le crayon dont je me sers, appartient à Jeanne.*

The group of words *dont je me sers* makes no sense by itself; it must be completed by the principal clause, *le crayon appartient à Jeanne.*

155. Some sentences have more than one clause of each kind:

Example: *Les enfants réussissent et ils sont contents, mais je sais que leurs professeurs s'inquiètent.*

les enfants réussissent (independent clause)

ils sont contents (independent clause)

je sais (independent clause)

que leurs professeurs s'inquiètent (subordinate clause)

Interjections

156. Interjections are invariable words used to express a strong feeling.

Example: *Ah! Que je suis heureuse!*

Often, they are just vowel sounds reinforced with an *h* before or after the vowel, such as *oh*, *ho*, *eh*, and *ha*. Their meaning usually depends on the tone of voice with which they are spoken. Sometimes adjectives, verbs, or adverbs are used as interjections.

Examples: <i>Bon!</i>	Good!	<i>Tiens!</i>	Here!
<i>Parfait!</i>	Perfect!	<i>Bien!</i>	Good!
<i>Allons!</i>	Let's go!	<i>Comment!</i>	What!
<i>Marche!</i>	Walk!	<i>Là!</i>	There!

Interjections are usually punctuated with an exclamation mark.

Sentence Analysis

157. Sentence analysis means dividing a sentence into its clauses and then analysing each clause; that is, listing its subject, predicate, and objects.

Example: *Les enfants réussissent et ils sont contents, mais je sais que leurs professeurs s'inquiètent.*

Les enfants réussissent – independent clause

les enfants – subject

réussissent – verb

ils sont contents – independent clause

ils – subject

sont – verb

contents – subject complement (predicate adjective)

je sais – independent clause

je – subject

sais – verb

(que) leurs professeurs s'inquiètent – subordinate clause

leurs professeurs – subject

s'inquiètent – verb

s' – direct object (reflexive verb)

Note: The two independent clauses are joined by the conjunction *et*. Another conjunction, *mais*, joins them to another independent clause; and *que*, a conjunction, joins the subordinate clause to the last independent clause.

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